

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Youth rally together to take a stand against bullying**

(Lincoln, Neb.) – ServeNebraska, AmeriCorps, and The BAY are joining together to hold a Stand for the Silent event hosted at the The BAY, 2005 Y Street, April 26 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mike Smith, founder and executive director of the nonprofit organization, will be speaking from 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the issue of bullying and the long term effects and impressions bullying has on youth and adults. Smith is a youth motivational speaker with a contagious energy that students will be drawn to and his powerful words will be hard to forget. Following the presentation, Smith will lead youth in the Stand for the Silent pledge and then stand silent for seven seconds (to represent that every seven seconds someone is bullied) in commemoration for those who have been bullied.

This is part of a statewide movement in which youth will stand together against bullying on April 26. Bullying has been a continuous and fearful problem that has taken over many youth's lives and Stand for the Silent is a day where the state can come together and bring awareness to this issue. More than 50,000 youth will participate.

Youth across Lincoln and in surrounding communities are invited to the event. Youth are encouraged to bring signs, art work, and other creative mediums to hold up or to show at The BAY. Glow sticks and pledge cards will be handed out at the door to youth for the seven seconds of silence. The glow sticks represent a candle light vigil and are something the youth can take with them to remember the event.

Following the event, youth are welcome to get acquainted with The BAY and see the vast opportunities the indoor skate park has to offer. If youth choose to skate, each skater must have a waiver on file (which can be printed off at <http://www.the-bay.org>) and signed by a parent/guardian if under the age of 18. Admission is only \$5 to skate for the evening. Snacks and drinks will be available on site. Helmets and skateboards will be available to rent for \$3 and \$5. Monthly passes will also be available for purchase at \$35 each.

This event would not be possible without the help from these sponsors: ServeNebraska, AmeriCorps, Mike Smith Live, Oriental Trading, Schaefer's, State Farm, the City of Lincoln Parks and Recreation ECHO AmeriCorps program, and Youth Service America (YSA).

For more information contact Lindsay Limbach, an ECHO AmeriCorps member assisting with this event, at 308-293-0543 or [lindsay.limbach@gmail.com](mailto:lindsay.limbach@gmail.com).